

Message Text

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17

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 FEA-02 INT-08

SCI-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 COME-00 AID-20 SAB-01 CCO-00

SSO-00 SIL-01 LAB-06 DRC-01 /215 W

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R 160552Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5908

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

/AMEMBASSY LONDON 2764

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT CAIRO

S E C R E T JIDDA 0225

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS, SA, LY

SUBJECT: ISLAMIC ARAB REPUBLIC AND VISIT OF
PRINCE FAHD TO TRIPOLI

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REF: (A) JIDDA 5745; (B) TUNIS 0224

BEGIN SUMMARY: ONE OF KING FAISAL'S CLOSEST ADVISORS DOES NOT BELIEVE LIBYAN-TUNISIAN UNION CAN LAST, AND SEES IT AS SOMETHING SPRUNG ON A FAILING BOURGUIBA BY MESMOUDI AND LIBYANS. WE ARE TOLD HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., WHO SAW THE KING MORNING AFTER UNION WAS ANNOUNCED, WAS ALSO SURPRISED. MININTERIOR AND POWERFUL SAUDI PRINCE FAHD HAS ANNOUNCED HE WOULD ACCEPT LIBYAN INVITATION AND DEPART FOR TRIPOLI JAN. 16; FURTHER INSIGHTS ON TUNISIAN-LIBYAN UNION SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON HIS RETURN. END SUMMARY.

1. KAMAL ADHAM, KING FAISAL'S ADVISOR FOR INTERNAL SECURITY AFFAIRS AND FREQUENT EMISSARY ABROAD, TOLD AMBASSADOR RATHER GLUMLY JANUARY 14 THAT ANNOUNCEMENT OF LIBYAN-TUNISIAN UNION CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT. HOWEVER, HE THOUGHT THAT THE UNION WOULD NEVER ACTUALLY BE ACCOMPLISHED, AND IF IT WERE, WOULD NOT LAST.

2. ADHAM SAID THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS ENGINEERED BY QADHAFI WHO HAD, HE SAID, BOUGHT TUNISIAN FORMIN MASMOUDI. THE LATTER HAD CONVINCED THE QUOTE SENILE UNQUOTE BOURGUIBA TO GO ALONG. (THIS WAS JUST BEFORE THE NEWS FROM BBC THAT MASMOUDI IS OUT.)

3. HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., CALLED ON KING FAISAL THE MORNING AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT HERE IN JIDDA; SUBSTANCE OF THAT AUDIENCE NOT KNOWN BUT WE ARE TOLD BY FRENCH EMBASSY SOURCE THAT BOURGUIBA, JR., WAS THOROUGHLY SURPRISED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNION.

4. LOWER-RANKING MEMBERS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, INCLUDING HEAD OF WESTERN SECTION AMBASSADOR NUR IBRAHIM, PROFESS TO SEE IN THIS UNION MORE REALISM THAN IN PAST EFFORTS. IBRAHIM (WHO KNOWS NORTH AFRICA QUITE WELL) ADDUCES CONTIGUITY AND ECONOMIC FACTORS AS REASONS WHY THE QUOTE HONEYMOON AT LEAST UNQUOTE MAY LAST LONGER THAN IN PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS AT UNITY IN THE ARAB WORLD. HE ACKNOWLEDGES THE CULTURAL ANDPOLITICAL DIFFICULTIES
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BUT BELIEVES THAT OTHER FACTORS MAY OUTWEIGH THEM IN THE SHORT RUN AT LEAST.

5. PRINCE FAHD, POWERFUL MINISTER OF INTERIOR, ANNOUNCED THIS MORNING THAT HE WAS DEPARTING FOR LIBYA ON JANUARY 16 AND TWO HIGH-RANKING SAUDI GENERALS AND THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, MOHAMMAD MAS'UD ACCOMPANYING HIM. THIS WAS IN ACCEPTANCE OF AN INVITATION FROM

LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER JALLUD A MONTH AGO. THE INVI-
TATION HAD BEEN MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR BY FAHD EARLIER
IN JANUARY (REF A.). AT THAT TIME FAHD EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AS
TO WHY HE WAS BEING INVITED TO TRIPOLI, BUT SAID
THAT HE MIGHT GO AND PROMISED TO BRIEF AMBASSADOR FULLY
ON VISIT. SOME FURTHER INFO AND SAUDI VIEWS ON TUNISIAN-
LIBYAN UNION SHOULD THEREFORE BE FORTHCOMING.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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